

Message Text

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73

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TAGS: MILI VS

SUBJECT: THE GVN MAINTAINS PRESSURE ON VC/ NVA IN DINH TUONG
PROVINCE

FOLLOWING RECEIVED FROM AMCONSUL CAN THO BEING REPEATED

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SUBJECT: THE GVN MAINTAINS PRESSURE ON VC/ NVA IN DINH TUONG
PROVINCE

1. SUMMARY: GVN SECTOR FORCES IN DINH TUONG ARE CONDUCTING DAILY
TERRITORIAL SECURITY AND OTHER RELATED OPERATIONS THROUGHOUT THE
PROVINCE. THESE OPERATIONS OFTEN IMPINGE ON TERRITORY WHICH THE VC/
NVA CLAIM TO CONTROL, BUT WHICH THE GVN HAS REFUSED TO CONCEDE.
THEY
ARE PART OF THE " PACIFICATION WAR" (REFTEL) WHICH HAS CONTINUED
THROUGHOUT THE DELTA. END SUMMARY.

2. ACCORDING TO BRIEFINGS BY SECTOR- LEVEL GVN MILITARY OFFICERS IN
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DINH TUONG, SECTOR FORCES CONDUCT FROM TWO TO FIVE " TERRITORIAL SECURITY" OPERATIONS DAILY IN EVERY DISTRICT IN DINH TUONG PROVINCE. SINCE THE GVN HAS CONCEDED NO TERRITORY TO THE VC/ NVA IN DINH TUONG, THESE OPERATIONS ARE SOMETIMES RUN IN AREAS WHERE THE LEVEL OF GVN CONTROL IS QUESTIONABLE. IN THE EASTERN DISTRICTS OF CHO GAO, BEN TRANH, CHAU THANH, AND IN SOUTHEASTERN SAM GIANG, SECTOR FORCES CON-

DUCT ALMOST DAILY OPERATIONS WHICH, IN DIRECT TRANSLATION, ARE " BURN AND DESTROY OPERATIONS." THESE OPERATIONS ARE AIMED AT CLEANING OUT VC/ NVA MINES, BUNKERS, AND ANY TROOPS WHICH MAY BE IN THE AREAS. SECTOR FORCES ARE ACTIVELY PUSHING PLANS TO REPAIR AND RE- ESTABLISH THREE OPERATING BASES , 11 RF COMPANY OUTPOSTS, AND 31 PF PLATOON OUTPOSTS. IN ADDITION, ONE NEW RF COMPANY OUTPOST AND 162 NEW PF PLATOON OUTPOSTS ARE PLANNED FOR 1973, ACCORDING TO MAJOR TRINH, THE COORDINATOR OF THE PROVINCE PACIFICATION AND DEVELOPMENT CAMPAIGN. MANY OF THE OUTPOSTS ARE ON VC/ NVA COMMO- LIAISON ROUTES OR IN " CONTESTED" AREAS.

3. SECTOR FORCES AND ARVN ENGINEERS ARE ALSO CONDUCTING ROAD-BUILDING CAMPAIGNS ADJACENT TO AREAS WHICH THE VC/ NVA CLAIM TO CONTROL, E. G., PROVINCIAL ROUTE 25 (THE " RIVER ROAD" RUNNING ALONG THE MEKONG THROUGH SOUTHERN SAM GIANG AND CAI LAY DISTRICTS TO CAI BE DISTRICT TOWN), PROVINCIAL ROUTE 20 THROUGH THE HEART OF SOUTHERN CAI LAY UP TO CAI LAY DISTRICT TOWN ON ROUTE 4, AND ROUTE 20 IN CAI BE DISTRICT, RUNNING FROM ROUTE 4 UP TO NORTHERN HAU MY, VERY CLOSE TO VC/ NVA BASE AREA 470.

4. FINALLY, THE GVN IS CONDUCTING ABOUT FIVE " CONSOLE THE PEOPLE" RESETTLEMENT OPERATIONS, USUALLY IN OR NEAR AREAS OF STRONG VC/ NVA INFLUENCE. FOR EXAMPLE, IN KIM SON VILLAGE IN SOUTHEASTERN SAM GIANG DISTRICT, THE GVN HAS MOVED 54 FAMILIES TOTALING 271 PERSONS DOWN TO ROUTE 25, THE " RIVER ROAD." IN NEIGHBORING PHU PHONG VILLAGE, THE GVN HAS MOVED 26 FAMILIES TOTALING 159 PERSONS TO ROUTE 25. MOST OF THE PEOPLE ARE OLD MEN AND WOMEN. THE GVN IS RESETTLING THEM ABOUT TWO KILOMETERS FROM THEIR FORMER HOMES.

5. COMMENT: THE GVN IS CONSOLIDATING AND EXPANDING THE LAND AND PEOPLE UNDER ITS CONTROL IN DINH TUONG, IN ORDER TO BE IN A FAVORABLE POSITION WHEN SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS BEGIN OVER WHICH SIDE CONTROLS WHAT IN DINH TUONG PROVINCE. THE GVN, LIKE THE VC/ NVA, IS PURSUING
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THE POLICY OF " TALK- FIGHT, FIGHT- TALK."
BARNES UNQUOTE
BUNKER

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